

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The lithium secondary battery of claim [[1]] 11, wherein said back coat layer has a function of preventing the electrodes from short-circuiting.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The lithium secondary battery of claim [[1]] 11, wherein said back coat layer has a function of preventing the electrodes from warping.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The lithium secondary battery of claim [[1]] 11, wherein said back coat layer contains at least an inorganic material as a filler and/or a resin.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The lithium secondary battery of claim [[1]] 4, wherein said inorganic filler is present and is the same material as an electrode active material.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The lithium secondary battery of claim [[1]] 11, wherein said separator has a piercing strength of at least 50 gf.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The lithium secondary battery of claim [[1]] 11, wherein said back coat layer has a thickness of 50 to 500  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The lithium secondary battery of claim [[1]] 11, wherein said electrode structure is a laminate structure.

Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The lithium secondary battery of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 11, wherein the negative electrodes each comprise a current collector layer and an active material-containing layer and the back coat layer has the same composition as the negative electrode said active material-containing layer.

Claim 11 (New): A lithium secondary battery comprising an electrolytic solution, a separator, and an electrode structure, which electrode structure comprises a plurality of positive electrodes and negative electrodes, said electrodes being in the form of layers, wherein outermost electrodes of said structure are negative electrodes, wherein a back coat layer is formed on each of said outermost electrodes and covers the entire surface of said outermost electrode, and wherein only the outermost electrodes are covered with said back coat layers.

### DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been canceled and replaced with new Claim 11, which is intended to be of the same scope but clarifies the claimed subject matter. See the specification at paragraph bridging pages 5 and 6, which describes Fig. 1, which Figure illustrates the claimed configuration where the outermost electrodes are negative electrodes.

Claim 9 has been canceled as redundant. The dependent claims have been amended to depend on Claim 11, except for Claim 5, which has been amended to depend on Claim 4, since neither Claim 11 (nor previous Claim 1) recites a filler. Finally, Claim 5 has been amended to require that the filler actually be present.

No new matter has been added by the above amendment. With entry thereof, Claims 2-8, 10 and 11 will be pending in the application.